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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 21, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY
THROUGH: Jonathan Vipond, III
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell
SUBJECT: National Youth Prayer Breakfast

Sarah Long in Presidential Scheduling has requested more detailed information on why we should do this event.

With the smashing 14 to 3 victory in the Senate Judiciary Committee, this national Youth Prayer Breakfast takes on additional, dramatic importance. The President is fighting this battle primarily to restore to our Nation's children the right to pray in school. The sponsors of this organization are among the leaders of the fight on behalf of the President's Amendment. Among the more important sponsors are:

1. Dr. Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ who has, right now, 16,500 full-time employees doing evangelical work among the Nation's high school and college students.

2. Dr. James T. Draper, President of the 14 million member Southern Baptist Convention;

3. Dr. Billy Graham, worldwide, the best known Christian evangelist;

4. Major national religious broadcasters:

Dr. Jerry Fallwell;
Rex Humbard;
Pat Robertson;
James Robison.

5. Dr. E. V. Hill, a nationally prominent black religious leader who has the largest church in Watts.

In sum, this is an ideal event for the President. With respect to school prayer, we are on a roll. The President should not miss this opportunity.

MCB:jet

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON

DATE: 83/06/27 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 83/06/28

SUBJECT: Scheduling Recommendation - Youth Prayer
Breakfast - "Come Together '83"

| | ACTION | FYI | | ACTION | FYI |
|------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| WHITTLESEY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | TILLER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| VIPOND | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | VILA | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ROUSSELOT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | GRAF | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BLACKWELL | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | SUNDSETH | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BUCKALEW | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MORECI | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| GALE | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| JACOBI | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| JEPSEN | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

REMARKS:

See memorandum, attached.

RESPONSE:

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 28, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY
THROUGH: Jonathan Vipond, III
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MCB*
SUBJECT: National Youth Prayer Breakfast

I have reviewed this invitation. This is a spectacular opportunity for the President to emphasize his support for restoring voluntary school prayer.

The endorsers include the head of the largest Protestant denomination, the Southern Baptists, Billy Graham, and most of the major national religious broadcasters.

This event is ideal. It is organized by the President's strongest friends in the religious community. It will be the object of massive national coverage. Let's do it.

MCB:jet

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

JUNE 24, 1983

MEMORANDUM

TO: FAITH WHITTLESEY

FROM: FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR., DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATION

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON THE FOLLOWING
SCHEDULING REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION:

EVENT: Address - Youth Prayer Breakfast - "Come
Together '83"

DATE: September 17, 1983

LOCATION: Fort Worth, Texas

BACKGROUND: See attached

YOUR RECOMMENDATION:

Accept ___ Regret ___ Surrogate ___ Message ___ Other ___
Priority ___
Routine ___

IF RECOMMENDATION IS TO ACCEPT, PLEASE CITE REASONS:

RESPONSE DUE 6-30-83

TO Sarah Long *Amel*



"COME TOGETHER '83" YOUTH PRAYER BREAKFAST

3106 ROBERTS CUT OFF • P.O. BOX 79777 • FORT WORTH, TX 76179 • (817) 624-4148

Coordinating Chairman
Dr. Vernard Johnson

Coordinators
Sam Mings
Jack Rabito
Rev. Harold Patton
Mrs. Betty Monzel

Mayor Of Fort Worth
The Honorable Bob Bolen

Prayer Breakfast &
Ministry Endorsements
Dr. Bill Bright
Dr. Caesar Clark

Evan. Kenneth Copeland
Dr. W. A. Criswell
Dr. Russell Dilday
Dr. James T. Draper
John Erickson
Dr. Jerry Falwell
Dr. Billy Graham
Bishop J. Neaul Haynes
Dr. E. V. Hill
Rev. E. Hubbard
Bunker Hunt
Dr. T. J. Jemison
Louis "Woody" Jenkins
Ed McAteer
Bishop J. O. Patterson
Pat Robertson
Evan. James Robison
Dr. J. C. Sams
Dr. Manuel L. Scott
Bob Tilton
Nathaniel A. Urshan
Dr. Billy Webber
Bob Weiner

Advisory Pastors
Rev. E. K. Bailey
Dr. E. L. Battles
Rev. C. D. Britt
Rev. B. R. Daniels
Dr. J. Frank Davis
Dr. L. B. George
Rev. J. L. Johnson
Dr. B. L. McCormick
Dr. S. E. Mitchell
Rev. R. L. Samples
Rev. Jim Southworth

Planning Committee
James Bagby
Rev. Elvis Bowman
Richard Champagne
Mrs. Eula Cobb
Paul Dade
Marita Dennis
Nolan Duck
Michael Fantroy
Mr. & Mrs. Fritz
Michael Gee
Mike Godfrey
Mrs. Katherine Guice
Michael Harris
Robert Jeffrey
Rev. James Jeter
Bob Johns
Mrs. Betty Johnson
Johnnie Johnson
Steve Knutz
Shirley Langdon
Chris Leibrum
Chris Machen
Don McCloud
James McSwain
Preston Nix
Mrs. Mary Page
Dennis Parnell
Rev. Alvin Pope
Olivia White
Gene Wilks
Mrs. Ruth Williams

37E

June 15, 1983

9/17/83

Steffen

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Solomon King

Dear Mr. President,

God bless you for the stand you have taken on 'prayer' in behalf of the 'youth of America', and also for your endeavor to reinstate prayer in the public schools. In prayer, human weakness casts itself upon Devine strength, and the earth claims kinship with the sky. In prayer, earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal... prayer is a powerful privilege.

Mr. President, knowing of the prayerful concern that you and Mrs. Reagan have for the youth of our nation and the future of our country, we believe that you will be interested in knowing of an event which might well mark the beginning of a new historical era for Christian youth coming together in prayer. A "Massive Youth Prayer Breakfast" involving over 5,000 youth of several different races, creeds, ages and backgrounds, but whose common ground is their faith in God, is going to be held in Fort Worth, Texas. This will be an historical gathering of youth who believe that prayer is one of the most powerful vehicles for reaching the youth in this age of moral decadence, and youth who are not ashamed to pray for the youth of America, our President, and our nation.

America, the greatest nation on the face of the earth, is a country that was built on prayer. Every president has taken the oath of office with his hand on the Bible; we sing "God Bless America" with the words, "...stand beside her and guide her"; "In God We Trust" is on our currency and our Pledge of Allegiance includes "one nation under God".

Sir, we believe if 'you' [the leader of the most powerful nation in the world], and Mrs. Reagan, would take a few minutes away from the world affairs to come to this Prayer Breakfast to share and pray with this historical gathering of youth, your presence would serve as a catalyst to launch a prayer movement among the youth and even the adults that has never been recorded in the annals of history.

"COME TOGETHER '83"

[Continued]


- 2 -

Mr. President, we invite you and Mrs. Reagan to come, and you to bring the keynote address on "The Importance of Prayer in the Home and School" at this historical "Massive Youth Prayer Breakfast". The date for "Come Together '83" is Saturday morning, September 17, 1983, 10:00 A.M., at the Tarrant County Convention Center in Fort Worth, Texas. However, if this date is not feasible for you, we will be more than happy to rearrange this date to accommodate your busy schedule and we ask that you would suggest a date when you would be able to come. We look forward to hearing from you regarding your coming at your earliest convenience.

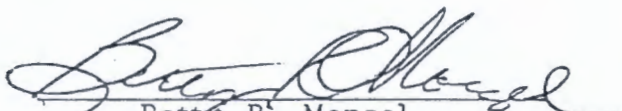
It is our prayer that God will continue to bless you to become the greatest President in the history of America.

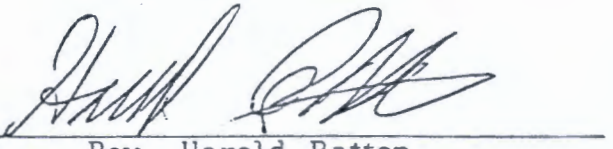
Sincerely for the Glory of God,


Dr. Vernard Johnson
Coordinating Chairman


Sam Mings
Coordinator


Jack Rabito
Coordinator


Betty R. Monzel
Coordinator


Rev. Harold Patton
Coordinator

CBN CENTER, VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23453 (804) 424-7777

The
Christian
Broadcasting
Network
Inc.



Pat Robertson
PRESIDENT

June 10, 1983

Dr. Vernard Johnson
Vernard Johnson Concert Ministry, Inc.
P. O. Box 79777
Fort Worth, TX 76179

Dear Vernard:

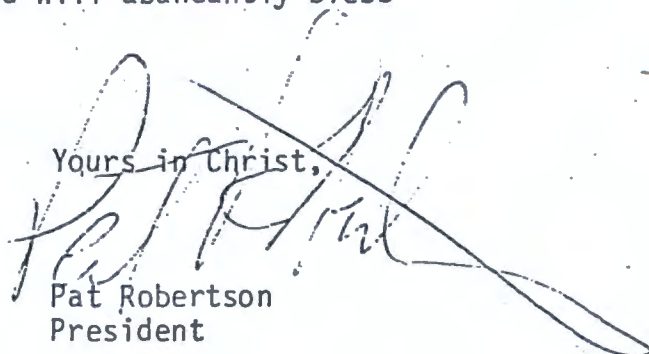
I was delighted to receive your letter and to learn of the plans for a "MASSIVE YOUTH PRAYER BREAKFAST" on September 17, 1983.

I commend you on your vision to bring young people together to pray for America's youth. The pressures upon our young people today are greater than at any time in our history. However, I know we serve a mighty God who still answers prayer.

My prayers are with you that God will abundantly bless this great prayer gathering.

With all good wishes, I am

Yours in Christ,



Pat Robertson
President

PR:bj

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church

1300 - 1308 East 50th Street - P.O. Box 11219
Los Angeles, California 90011

Rev. Edward V. Hill, B.S., LL.D., Pastor

235-2103

May 12, 1983

Bro. Vernard Johnson
Vernard Johnson Concert Ministries
P.O. Box 79777
Fort Worth, Texas 76179

Dear Vernard;

I am excited to hear about your plans for a "MASSIVE YOUTH PRAYER BREAKFAST" on September 17, 1983.

I too believe there are youth who have been waiting for the opportunity to stand up and be counted for Christ.

I am in total support of this idea, for I believe it is of God. Please know that the family of Mount Zion, The World Christian Training Center, and the STEP Foundation are praying for the success of this event.

Yours sure of salvation through Christ;



Edward V. Hill, Pastor

EVH/re

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
JAMES T. DRAPER, JR.

April 25, 1983

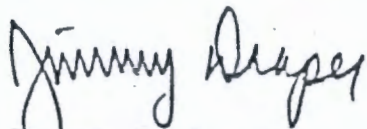
Dr. Vernard Johnson
P. O. Box 79777
Ft. Worth, TX 76179

Dear Vernard:

Just want to write and commend you on the Prayer Breakfast you have planned for September 17th. I am grateful to God for your vision and for your concern for the youth of America.

I know it will be a success and have a long-lasting effect for the Kingdom. I will be praying for you and with you on September 17th. May God bless you in a special way.

In His love,


James T. Draper, Jr.

JTD/mn

W. A. CRISWELL, PASTOR
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
DALLAS, TEXAS 75201

May 2, 1983

Dr. Vernard Johnson
Vernard Johnson Concert Ministry, Inc.
P.O. Box 79777
Fort Worth, Texas 76179

Dear wonderful friend, Dr. Vernard Johnson:

People have briefed me on your organizing the Youth Prayer Breakfast to convene at the Tarrant County Convention Center in Fort Worth on Saturday, September 17. They have told me that the theme under which the convention will move is, "Come Together '83." When I heard of the work you had done, I rejoice greatly and thank God from the deep of my heart. We need intercessory prayer more than words could ever say. And, to involve our young people in such an intercession is a blessing that will move heaven itself.

May God bless your testimony wherever you go as beautifully and preciously as He blessed your witness in word and in music during our great revival here in the First Baptist Church of Dallas. It is a fortunate congregation anywhere in the earth who has you to encourage them in the work of the Lord.

Faithfully and devotedly yours,



W. A. Criswell

WAC:ep



THE CITY OF FORT WORTH
TEXAS

BOB BOLEN
MAYOR

May 27, 1983

Dr. Varnard Johnson
Vernard Johnson Concert Ministries
P.O. Box 79777
Fort Worth, Texas 76179

Dear Vernard:

Thank you for the invitation to welcome those in attendance at the upcoming "Massive Youth Prayer Breakfast" on September 17. I appreciate this opportunity and would be happy to greet the conference.

I sincerely hope that the Prayer Breakfast will be a great success. Thank you for your interest in, and concern for, the young people of Fort Worth.

Sincerely,

Bob Bolen
Mayor

BB:jc

The Rex Humbard Foundation

Suite 210

1950 South Federal Hwy.

Boynton Beach, Florida 33435

305/732-0220

May 24, 1983

Dr. Vernard Johnson
Vernard Johnson Concert Ministries
P. O. Box 79777
Ft. Worth, Texas 76179

Dear Dr. Johnson,

It was a real privilege talking with you at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas and learning of your plans for a "MASSIVE YOUTH PRAYER BREAKFAST" which will convene in your center September 17, 1983.

I shall pray that this will be a great success and the hope of the future church in regard to our young people. It is men, like you, who will put forth a special effort to bring our young people to Jesus Christ and His Gospel that gives us hope for the future generation.

May God bless you and the great musical talent for your spiritual dedication and bring you spiritual rewards for your faithfulness in your service for Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

YOU ARE LOVED,



Rex E. Humbard
REH:ns

COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL POLICY

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 20, 1983

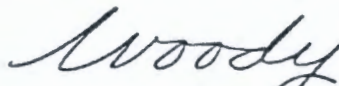
Dr. Vernard Johnson, President
Vernard Johnson Concert Ministries
8701 Lake Country Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76179

Dear Vernard:

It was exciting to hear about the "massive prayer breakfast" to be held September 17. The Council for National Policy is in support of any effort to bring together the youth of America for prayer, for we believe that God does hear and answers prayers.

Please know that the Council and I are in support of the "Youth Prayer Breakfast", and you have our prayers that this event will be successful.

Sincerely,



Louis "Woody" Jenkins
Executive Director

LWJ:dt

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Russell H. Dilday, Jr. *President*

May 23, 1983

Dr. Vernard Johnson
Concert Ministry, Inc.
P. O. Box 79777
Fort Worth, TX 76179

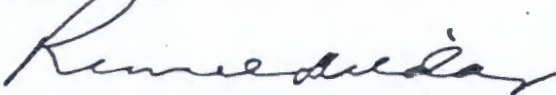
Dear Vernard:

It is a pleasure for me to join others of your friends in commending you on the massive youth prayer breakfast which will be held on Saturday, September 17, 1983.

There is no greater need in our country today than for this kind of emphasis to hold up our country and especially the youth of our country before the Lord in intercession.

We are proud of you as a graduate of Southwestern and continue to be deeply grateful for your contribution to our Lord's work.

Cordially,



Russell Dilday

RHD:sr

Dear Manuel -
Please give this to
Jerry. Thank you
Manuel



VERNARD JOHNSON
CONCERT MINISTRY, INC.

Martin,
This could be
a positive experience.

TO: Dr. Jerry Falwell

RE: "Come Together - Youth Prayer Breakfast"

STATEMENT

Dear Jerry,

Several weeks ago we spoke to you and wrote you concerning an invitation which was sent to President Reagan inviting him to be the keynote speaker for the "Come Together - Youth Prayer Breakfast". Since that invitation was sent there are some tremendously important, positive things that have developed which we know 'you' and the President will be interested in:

FACTS

1. The "black" leaders both nationally and locally are supporting this event as never before, such as:

NATIONALLY

Dr. E. V. Hill
Dr. T. J. Jemison
Dr. J. S. Sams
Bishop J. O. Patterson

LOCALLY

Dr. Caesar Clark
Dr. L. B. George
Dr. Manuel Scott
Dr. E. K. Bailey

2. Over 2500 "blacks" (who have a tremendous respect for the President and are excited about the possibility for the President coming) will be there; approximately 2500 "whites" (a total of 5,000 people, banquet style setting) will be there.
3. Carl Lewis (a young black who is the triple Gold Medal marathon runner at Helsinki, and is on this month's cover of Sports Illustrated) will be there to give his testimony, and also Zig Ziglar.
4. PTL is strongly considering video taping this event to show it all over America.
5. Thousands of people all over the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex area are praying that the President would come.
6. Even though this is billed as a "Youth Prayer Breakfast", people of all ages (youth, young adults, middle age people and senior citizens will be there) - it is only centered around the youth.

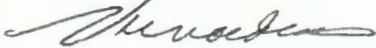
7. This will be the largest "Youth Prayer Breakfast" in the history of America.

How could President Reagan's appearance at the youth prayer breakfast help America?

1. It would help erase the erroneous belief among "blacks" that President Reagan is not concerned about blacks -- Picture the President standing before 5,000 blacks and whites at a (banquet style) breakfast and the excitement about the President's words on "Prayer" culminates with a thunderous standing ovation. It would touch the hearts of "blacks" all over
2. It would be important in helping to launch a "Great Awakening" all over America. Every "great awakening" in the history of America began with the "youth in Prayer" -- Picture the President praying with 5,000 youth at a Prayer Breakfast and the media flashes it across the country - youth all over the country would start praying.
3. It would help the world to know that not only do we have one of the greatest political leaders in American history as President, but also, one of the greatest spiritual leaders -- Picture PTL video taping this and showing it all over America - the Christian world will rejoice!
4. President Reagan's appearance at the breakfast would demonstrate to the American people how important the God-fearing "youth" who believe in prayer are to our country - more important than meeting with a king or a queen because the 'youth' of this country are America.
5. His coming would motivate the media into showing another side of our 'youth' - 'youth' who are not perpetrators of crime, dope and alcoholism, but rather 'youth' who believe in the God-fearing principles this nation was built upon.
6. It would show the unanimity among the God-fearing American people -- Picture the President standing before a large, beautiful salt and pepper audience [SMILE], proclaiming his beliefs on prayer in the home.
7. It would say to God as never before that America surely, surely has not forgotten Him -- Picture the leader of the richest and most powerful nation in the world kneeling and leading several thousand youth in prayer.

Sir, these occurrences are the working of God and could not be predicted 6 months to a year ago. Jerry, It Is URGENT that the President come! It is highly possible that the unique situation I have just described may not ever occur again during the term of President Reagan, or for several Presidents to come. We prayerfully ask that you would personally call the President and ask him to come. IT IS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD!

Sincerely for Him,



Vernard Johnson,
Coordinating Chairman
VJ:b
enc.

P.S. Dr. Charles Stanley is also calling the White House for us.

Just
Master Blackwell